

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 9, 2006. Claims 1, 3-8, 14-16, and 18 are presented for examination and have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 6, 14, and 18 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

A sworn translation of the priority document is submitted herewith as requested in the Office Action at paragraph 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment that the claim for foreign priority has been perfected.

The Office Action at paragraph 4 objected to the Amendment filed on October 3, 2005 as allegedly introducing new matter. Further, the Office Action at paragraph 5 objected to the specification as allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Furthermore, the Office Action at paragraph 6 objected to the drawings because allegedly the figures do not show the claimed invention.

Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 15, and 16 were objected to because of alleged informalities pointed to in the Office Action at paragraph 7.

Claims 1, 6, 14, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 1, 3-8, 14, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The claims have been amended to cancel the alleged new matter, and have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, with special attention to the points raised in paragraphs 8-13 of the Office Action. It is believed that the above-noted objections and the

rejections under Section 112, have been obviated, and their withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 14-16, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0161590A1 (*Sakakibara*) in view of U.S. Patent 5,999,208 (McNerney), U.S. Patent 6,370,279 (Paik), and U.S. Patent 6,064,772 (Tanno).

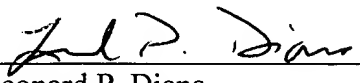
The present application and *Sakakibara* were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Canon Kabushiki Kaisha.

Applicants submit, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), that *Sakakibara* does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) against the present application, since the subject matter of that publication and the invention claimed in the present application were commonly owned at the time the invention was made.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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